



ACUB Fact Sheet

Fort Custer Training Center



Background

Fort Custer Training Center (FCTC) is a 7,570 acre training site for the Michigan Army National Guard located in southwest Michigan. FCTC's primary training mission is small arms and light maneuver training for both reserve component and active forces. FCTC contains some of the most pristine habitat in southwest Michigan. Numerous threatened endangered and special concern species, as well as over 500 acres of high quality natural communities exist on the post.

Hart's Lake, approximately 418 acres, is the only property bordering FCTC that could be developed with an incompatible use which would limit use of a range on post. The risk to training is great, as the portion of Hart's Lake most prime for development is upland woods along the lake, a strip immediately adjacent to FCTC. The Hart's Lake property is also an invaluable natural resource in a quickly urbanizing area. The Kalamazoo River watershed has been greatly impacted by the urbanization of southwest Michigan, and this is a great opportunity to preserve more open space to insure the ecological integrity of this area.

Objective

FCTC and its partners will work together to preserve the Hart's Lake property to protect and enhance training capacity and operational areas at FCTC and to maintain mission preparedness, as well as preserve an ecologically valuable property with a broad constituency of land managers. This will prevent land uses that are incompatible with training at FCTC.

Partners

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Committed to the conservation, protection, management, use and enjoyment of the State's natural resources for current and future generations. For further information call 615-373-2329 or visit <http://www.michigan.gov/dnr#RSS>.

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY, MICHIGAN CHAPTER

Works to protect the state's finest wetlands, forest, shoreline and prairies through purchase, partnership or donations. For further information call 517-316-2268 or visit <http://nature.org/wherework/northamerica/states/michigan/>.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS)

Provides leadership in a partnership effort to help America's private land owners and managers conserve their soil, water, and other natural resources. For further information call 517-324-5270 or visit <http://www.mi.nrcs.usda.gov/>.

SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN LAND CONSERVANCY

Preserves the natural, scenic, and historic landscapes in the nine counties of southwest Michigan. For further information call 269-324-1600 or visit <http://www.swmlc.org/>.

POTOWATAMI RESOURCE CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Focuses on improving quality of life achieved through natural resources conservation and community development. The Potawatami Resource Conservation and Development area is a locally sponsored area designated by the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture for technical and financial assistance program funds. For further information visit <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/rcd/>.

Installation ACUB POC

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